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February 23, 2006

Hon. Scott Peters, President,
and Hon. Members, City Council
City of San Diego
202 C Street, 10th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: City of San Diego Water Reuse Study 2005

Dear President Peters and Honorable Council Members:

A reliable and affordable water supply is the foundation of San Diego's economic prosperity and quality of life. Water reliability has always been a key issue for the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. Because of water availability, our region was able to attract a cadre of businesses that form San Diego's "new" economies: telecommunications, biomedical, electronics, software, and defense and space manufacturing. Water is a finite and precious natural resource, and we must use it wisely and proactively consider any workable alternatives that bring additional water to San Diego in the future. One such alternative is water reuse.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce has followed the progress of the City of San Diego's 2005 Water Reuse Study with great interest. Our Water Subcommittee, Infrastructure and Public Policy Committees received detailed presentations by Water Department staff on this issue. Several of our Water Subcommittee members also participated in the American Assembly workshop in July 2005.

The Independent Advisory Panel (IAP), which was convened by City staff, included water researchers and scientists selected by the National Water Research Institute to review the study's design and preliminary results. We understand that there was strong consensus among IAP members that public health related to purified wastewater is not an issue and that the purification process can produce water that is clean and safe. Therefore, the Chamber believes that we all need to work together to make water reuse a new alternative to augment our water supply.

On November 21, 2005, your Public Utilities Advisory Commission (PUAC) recommended that the San Diego City Council (a) adopt the City of San Diego Water Reuse Study 2005 – American Assembly Workshop II Statement as the City's policy on water reuse, specifically the strategies for North City and South Bay including reservoir augmentation and indirect potable reuse; (b) direct City staff to develop as soon as possible a scope of work and strategy to implement the policies, strategies, and projects described in the City of San Diego Water Reuse Study 2005 – American Assembly Workshop II Statement; and (c) direct City staff to report to the Commission not less than annually on implementation of City Water Reuse policies, strategies, and projects described in the City of San Diego Water Reuse Study 2005 – American Assembly Workshop II Statement.

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On December 15, 2005, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce board of directors voted to support the PUAC recommendations, and we urge you to do the same when this issue comes before you. The Chamber believes that the City of San Diego Water Department has done an excellent job in keeping the public informed as the study progressed. We encourage you to continue and expand these public outreach efforts and pledge our support in promoting the importance of water reuse to our membership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Alevy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott D. Alevy
Vice President, Public Policy and Communications

SDA:av

cc. Hon. Jerry Sanders, Mayor